

REMARKS

Claims 3, and 13-17 currently remain in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 4-12 have been canceled, claims 15-17 are new claims and no claims are herein amended.

Claims 3, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Schultz in view of Kato. One of the important features of the present invention is to prevent water drops from forming continuously over the detection surface of a capacitance sensor and this purpose is accomplished by providing protrusions designed for this particular purpose. The shield electrode and the detection electrode both face the detection surface and both these electrodes are covered. Schultz discloses protrusions on the protective layer 13 but these protrusions come about merely because the wires around the touch area 2 are protruding. It is clear that they cannot prevent formation of water drops over the detection surface (touch area 2).

In order to make this distinction clear, new claims 15-17 are herein added to specifically say that these protrusions referred to in claim 3 are horizontal protrusions. This characterization is well supported by the specification (Fig. 1) and hence these new claims do not introduce any new matter. Since they are supported by the specification, they should be deemed enterable and it must be concluded that they indeed distinguish the present invention more clearly from Schultz.

Kato was cited evidently only for disclosing a capacitive sensor having a shield electrode but does not contribute in the effort to prevent water drops in any manner. Thus, even if these two references are considered in combination, there is no reason to expect that a product as limited by the claims of the present application will result.

In summary, it is believed that the application has been in condition for allowance and that new claims 15-17 merely serve to make it more convincing.

Respectfully submitted,


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